



Date: June 30, 2003
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As the Fourth of July approaches, the public is reminded that discharging fireworks is prohibited on Forest Service and State lands, and in established campgrounds and developed recreation areas managed by the Bureau of Land Management. For regulations on county lands, please contact your local fire department or sheriff's office.

The BLM has placed additional restrictions on the Four Dances Natural Area, the Acton area, Sundance Lodge Special Recreation Area, and Shepherd Ah-Nei. In those areas, fireworks, campfires or charcoal fires are not allowed; smoking is permitted only inside a vehicle, building, designated campground or an area at least three feet in diameter that is cleared of all flammable material; and motorized vehicles must have a properly installed spark arrestor.

Although we've had near normal levels of precipitation this spring, we are continuing to recover from several years of drought and the larger fuels such as trees are still very dry and will burn easily. Please take extra caution when working and recreating outdoors to help prevent wildland fire starts. Anyone who causes a wildland fire intentionally or through negligence may be held accountable for damage and suppression costs.

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General precautions include ensuring that your campfire is dead out before you leave it; smoking in an enclosed vehicle or building and crushing it out completely; and parking in areas clear of vegetation.

In addition, burn permits are required for any open burning on state or federal lands, and on some private lands. Before doing any open burning, please contact your local fire department or sheriff's office for more information and to obtain any necessary permits.

For more information about preventing wildland fires, please contact the Custer National Forest at 406-657-6200; Bureau of Land Management at 406-896-5013; Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation at 406-247-4400; Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks at 406-247-2940; Carbon County at 406-446-1595; Stillwater County at 406-321-0204; or your local fire department or sheriff's office.

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